

DOWN IN THE VALLEY



The Newsletter of the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association

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FREE

Letter from the President -- D. Robert Drake

Last year the City of Durham responded to two problems on Dover Road which had been brought forth by some Hope Valley neighbors. These concerns centered around an increasingly high volume of traffic using Dover Road as a short cut and the "excessive" speeds of Dover Road traffic. The City's solution was to place "speed humps," along with corresponding street painting and warning signs, between Rugby and Bristol Roads. To date there have been mixed opinions on both the solution and the desired results.

What do you think?

Your HVNA Board is your advocate in community matters and wants to represent fairly the majority of our residents. For us to be successful we need your thoughts. Please use the questionnaire to share with us your concerns on these matters. Also, if you have not yet mailed in your dues, please do so now. Annual dues are only \$10 per household and are needed to cover expenses for the newsletters, entryway landscaping and neighborhood watch. Please do not neglect this token financial support for your neighborhood community.



BEAUTIFICATION NOTES

By Jeanne Henrickson

Oh, so much to be done! Hurricane Fran left us with an abundance of tasks. Happily, and with a great deal of gratitude, we have a minimum of left-over cleanup. I would encourage all to concentrate on their parkways. We were so fortunate to have all the heavy equipment necessary to clean up the mass destruction--now let us focus on leveling, raking and re-seeding.

Volunteers are desperately needed (for two or three hours per month) to spruce up the Windsor Way and Dover Road ingress and egress off Chapel Hill Road. I appeal especially to those living on these streets to respond. Call me at 489-8762 and collectively we will determine a definite time each month to share the rewarding tasks of beautifying our neighborhood.

HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1997

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HOPE VALLEY HISTORY PART 3: THE DEPRESSION

By Mena Webb

Hope Valley Country Club, now 70 years old, was young and glamorous during the spring and summer of 1929 when Durham was riding high on a wave of prosperity. Only a few prophets of doom would admit that America was on the brink of financial destruction. With the exception of farmers, most people believed they were better off than they had been since before World War I and Club members were thoroughly enjoying their beautiful, professionally-decorated "home away from home."

A major attraction for ladies was the Tuesday morning bridge luncheon, featuring several hours of play, followed by mouth-watering chicken salad, feather-light hot rolls, iced tea and a sumptuous dessert—all for 25 cents. But the ultimate bargain for both sexes was the annual dinner, with everyone in evening dress and Palmer Constable's orchestra playing popular tunes for dancing. One early menu offered celery hearts, canapes, fried chicken, baked country ham, braised sweetbreads under glass, rice



croquettes with cheese sauce, garden peas in cream, frozen fruit salad, Biscuit Tortoni, raspberry ice cream and demi tasse. For that gastronomic experience, members were charged one dollar.

The Club's real drawing card was golf, already a consuming passion with many Durham citizens. A Chamber of Commerce brochure for that year said "the beautiful links of the suburban club are daily packed with devotees of the alluring pastime." Faced with the sad fact, however, that only three of 35 people named as frequent golfers



lived in Hope Valley, the developers began to build houses to sell, hoping to promote more interest. Thus eleven homes were constructed as the Bull Market galloped toward its doom. Then, on October 29, 1929, the world witnessed what has been described as the greatest stock market catastrophe of all time. It was the blackest day in American financial history and for the next four years the economy steadily grew worse.

Among the 18 families living in the new community that had begun with such promise, most stayed only because they could not sell their homes. As time went on, more and more let their servants go, wore the same clothes season after season, and began to resign from the Club. But rock bottom was still to come; it arrived on March 4, 1933, when the American banking system failed and people began to wonder if the country itself would survive.

Two years later Hope Valley, Inc. went into voluntary receivership and at least half of its unsold property was offered at public auction "for practically nothing." Still, it refused to die. The dream of a setting of natural beauty and gracious family life was to continue.

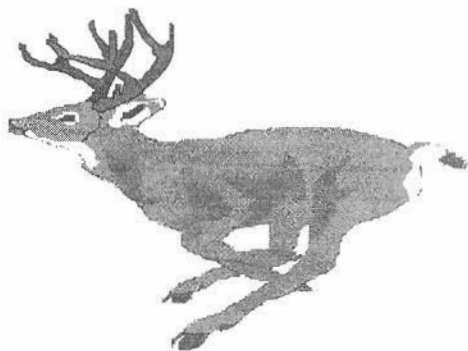
Wildlife in Our Backyards

by Nonna Skumanich

We were all saddened by the loss to our community of so many beautiful trees during Hurricane Fran. Yet even the fury of a hurricane has some benefits: assessing damage after the storm provided an opportunity to meet neighbors. The loss of some trees challenged many to make changes in their gardens -perhaps to create a sun garden in what used to be dense shade or to plant new and different trees to replace the ones lost.

Like many Hope Valley residents, my husband and I were attracted to this neighborhood by the patches of forest and large lots. What we did not expect was the wide range of wildlife that lives around us. Hope Valley is one of the most ecologically vibrant city neighborhoods. For example, it is home to a hawk that had a large nest up in the pines on Darwin; you can occasionally see it circling overhead. We are delighted by the small tree frogs that visit our pool every summer. We have seen turtles and a crawdad near the stream that is just down the hill from us. Still rarer has been the mysterious call of an owl, which I have heard twice now along Rugby Road. And we all have been enchanted by the flute-like tones of the wood thrushes on spring evenings. Jeanne Henrickson reported that she recently saw a deer in her backyard!

For us, it seemed natural to take the next



step to have our property designated by the National Wildlife Federation as an official wildlife habitat. Over 17,000 properties in the U.S. and Canada including residences, post offices, corporate headquarters, places of worship, and golf courses have been designated official wildlife habitat. To designate one's yard as a habitat reflects a commitment by the owner to make the city a friendlier environment for birds and other wildlife that enrich our lives.

It takes only a few easy steps to accomplish this goal. Property owners simply select trees, shrubs and flowering plants that attract beneficial insects as well as butterflies, birds and other animals. Additionally, it is important to provide sources of water, shelter and places to raise young.

If you are interested in finding out how to have your property designated an official habitat, the National Wildlife Federation has a complete information packet. Call 800+822-9919 and ask about the backyard wildlife habitat program. All that is necessary to be certified an official habitat is a commitment to make your property wildlife friendly. This can be done even in the more formal gardens common to Hope Valley. You can do something as simple as trying to create an hospitable environment for butterflies.

We found this program to be a great way to learn more about how to protect and foster the wildlife in our neighborhood. We hope that in a small way we can contribute to the preservation of the unique character of Hope Valley. If you have questions or sightings of animals or interesting plants which you'd like to share in future newsletters, call me at 419-8420.



Zoning Change

by Jim McDonald

Did you know that:

- a 105,000 square foot shopping center, featuring a Kroger supermarket and 288 apartments, is being planned for a site across from Homestead Market on N.C. 54 and was approved by City Council on Feb. 18th;

from the Fonville Morissey office) is in the process of being rezoned to make way for a Lowe's super-market.

Did you know that: